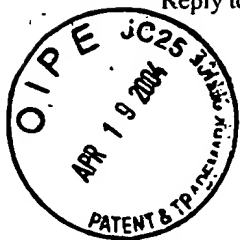


Appl'n. No. 09/451,090  
Response dated Apr. 19, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 19, 2003



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl'n. No. : 09/451,090  
Applicant : Sandhu et al.  
Filed : 11/30/1999  
TC/A.U. : 2155  
Examiner : Khanh Dinh

Confirmation No. 8582

Docket No. : GMU-16U  
Customer No. : 28598

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APR 22 2004

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT & RCE RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Amendment and RCE is in response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response that expired on February 19, 2004 and a two-month extension of time up to and including April 19, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.